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MEMORANDUM

To: Reporters and Editors
Re: Decision on Mexican trade
Da: Monday, June 16, 2003

Sen. Chuck Grassley, chairman of the Committee on Finance, made the following comment on the decision of the U.S. Trade Representative to request World Trade Organization consultations on Mexico's antidumping order on U.S. beef.

"I'm pleased with the decision of the U.S. Trade Representative to request WTO consultations regarding Mexico's antidumping order on U.S. beef. Unfortunately, Mexico in recent years has developed a habit of not fully complying with its international trade obligations when it comes to agricultural imports from the United States. For the benefit of producers and consumers on both sides of the border, this practice must stop. WTO consultations are a first step in bringing Mexico back in line with its trade obligations.

"I encourage the Administration to act with similar resolve in working to remove Mexico's barriers, and proposed barriers, to imports of other U.S. agricultural products. Iowa's producers of high fructose corn syrup, pork, and white corn shouldn't foot the bill when Mexico fails to fulfill its international trade commitments."